

Remarks

The Examiner and Official Draftsperson objected to the informal figures originally filed with the application. The Examiners objection has been obviated by amendment of claim 13, described herein below. Formalized replacement figures are attached in answer to the Official Draftspersons figure quality objections. No new matter had been added.

The Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 13 has been amended to reference the sleeve as the element spaced away from the ground plane by a dielectric spacer.

The Examiner objected to claims 2-8 and 10-12 as dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiners indication that claims 2-8 and 10-12 would be allowable if placed into independent form.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over *Hope*. Claim 1 has been amended to include each and every limitation of original dependent claim 2 (now canceled) which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if placed into independent form. Claims 3-12 are dependent upon claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-12 are now in allowable form.

At page 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 13-16 are allowed. However, the Examiner rejected claim 13 as indefinite as addressed, herein above. Because claim 13 is believed to now be in allowable form, dependent claims 14-16 are also in allowable form.

Serial Number: 10/707,490
Filed: 12/17/2003

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Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



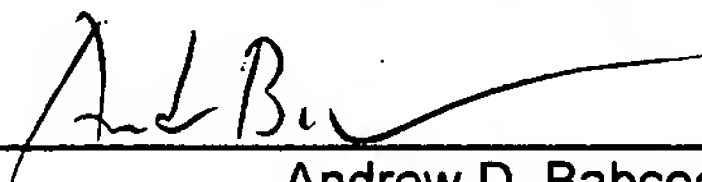
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/encl: Replacement figures (6 sheets)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on May 16, 2005.*



Andrew D. Babcock